

REMARKS

Claims 1-17 are pending. Claims 6-17 have been withdrawn by the Examiner as being drawn to a non elected invention. Claims 18-23 are newly added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed, for example at page 4, lines 4-16, and at page 18, lines 18-21 of the specification. No new matter has been entered.

Specification

The Office Action indicates that the title is not descriptive. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the title from "Novel method of screening" to "Methods of Screening for Ligands for FPRL2"

The Office Action indicates that the text in line 12 on page 1 of the instant specification discusses an amino acid sequence without employing the required sequence identifier. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the text by inserting the sequence identifier of SEQ ID NO:8 into line 12 of page 1. Applicant has also submitted herewith a new sequence listing in paper and CRF form, adding SEQ ID NO:8 to the sequence listing. Applicant hereby states that no new matter has been entered.

35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph - enablement

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

Specifically, the Office Action indicates that the recited limitations of "substantially the same" and "partial peptide thereof" encompass polypeptides comprising less than the entire amino acid sequence of a native receptor protein or the thirty six amino acids that make up neuropeptide Y, and also that the specification does not provide sufficient guidance to predict which of these polypeptides are going to be functional.

Applicant respectfully traverses on the grounds that it would not take undue experimentation on the part of one skilled in the art to determine which polypeptides are functional using tools well known to the artisan in association with guidance regarding the recited polypeptides from the instant specification. However, solely in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has deleted the recitation of the phrases "substantially the same" and "partial peptide thereof" from the instant claims without prejudice to pursuing this canceled subject material in the instant application or in another patent application.

In light of the instant claim amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the instant claims.

35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph - enablement

The Office Action indicates that claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention.

Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-4 are vague and indefinite because the metes and bounds of the limitation "substantially the same" are undeterminable. Applicant respectfully traverses, but solely in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has removed the phrase "substantially the same" from the instant claims without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled subject material in this or another patent application.

Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 1-4 are vague because the phrase "or signal transduction" make no sense in the context in which it appears in these claims. Applicant respectfully traverses, but solely in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has removed the phrase "or signal transduction" from the instant claims without prejudice to pursuing the cancelled subject material in this or another patent application.

Specifically, the Office Action indicates that claims 3 and 4 are vague and indefinite because the limitation "which is characterized by" does not specifically indicate if the limitations that follow are required for the kit. Accordingly, Applicant has removed the phrase "which is characterized" from the instant claims without prejudice and replaced it with the phrase "wherein said kit comprises".

The Office Action further states that claims 1 and 2 provide for the use of a plurality of reagents in a method of screening, but since these claims do not set forth any steps involved in the method/process, it is unclear what method/process Applicant is intending to encompass. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to recite active, positive steps.

In light of the instant claim amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the instant claims.

35 U.S.C. 101

The Office Action indicates that Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed recitation of a use without setting forth any steps involved in the process results in an improper definition of a process.

Applicant respectfully traverses, however, solely in the interest of advancing prosecution, Applicant has amended the claims to recite active, positive steps.

In light of the instant claim amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the instant claims.

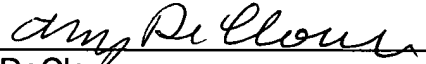
Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance. A petition for an extension of time and the appropriate fee are

being filed concurrently with this Amendment. Please charge any necessary fees required in connection with the paper transmitted herewith to Deposit Account No. 04-1105, Reference No.: 68116(46342).

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Respectfully submitted,

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